

## Recycled-content outdoor furniture

Many a pop bottle has been reincarnated as a longer-lasting useful product. The picnic furniture outside of the Building 15 cafeteria is made from this high-density polyethylene (HDPE).

According to Joe Morris, our Chief Architect, "When you think of wood, think splinters." This plastic is a lot more user-friendly. It's also more cleanable. With outdoor wood tables, you always feel like putting a tablecloth over it, or wiping the seat with a napkin before sitting down with newly dry-cleaned pants. The recycled plastic is easily wiped clean with a napkin or whatever."

Joe points out that another environmental benefit over-and-above recycling plastic is the low ongoing maintenance. Wood needs to be re-stained periodically. The color in these plastic items is impregnated. They are not even painted to begin with.

Cafeteria –  
Recycled-content  
outdoor furniture.



You can also find this recycled-content furniture at the "Corral" behind the Hangar building and at Guerin House; plus, the smokers' outposts (little cigarette-butt depository towers) all around Glenn. GRC is also considering this furniture in other areas as old wood tables deteriorate. There is also talk of recycled plastic bike sheds in the future. Bikes last longer when they are out of the weather. According to Joe, this is part of a major initiative of greening government facilities – trying to use more recycled content in buildings (see NASA Green Building Policies under the Sustainable Design page).

The recycled plastic in these tables, benches, and garbage cans are mostly made from milk jugs. Also, Building 21 has carpet tiles made of recycled plastic and recycled old carpet (chopped up).

Suppliers of recycled-content furniture are plentiful. Anyone can purchase this type of environmentally friendly, low-maintenance, and hardy furniture for work or home.